

NORTH CAROLINIANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for North Carolinians. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in North Carolina. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in North Carolina.

INCOME: NORTH CAROLINIANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in North Carolina was \$43,537.¹
- In 2005, the median income in North Carolina was \$41,820, a drop of 3.9 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN NORTH CAROLINA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, North Carolina had 1,037,000 adults without insurance (13.3 percent).³
- In 2005, North Carolina had 1,371,000 adults without insurance (16 percent).⁴
- North Carolina had 196,181 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵ If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program; North Carolinians will face a funding shortfall of \$16,930,000.⁶

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN NORTH CAROLINA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in North Carolina was \$7,080.⁷ In 2005, it was \$9,450, a 33 percent increase.⁸
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in North Carolina was \$20,169.⁹ In 2005, it was \$24,600, a 22 percent increase.¹⁰
- Number of North Carolinians affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 90,237¹¹
- Number of North Carolinians affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 97,654¹²

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in North Carolina was \$1.411 a gallon.¹³
- Today the average cost of gas in North Carolina is \$2.312 a gallon.¹⁴
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in North Carolina was \$2,062.¹⁵

- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in North Carolina is \$3,379, \$1,317 (63.9 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁶

SOCIAL SECURITY: NORTH CAROLINIANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in North Carolina – 1,467,400¹⁷
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in North Carolina – \$853¹⁸

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: NORTH CAROLINIANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of North Carolinians killed in Iraq – 63¹⁹
- Number of North Carolinians wounded in Iraq – 504²⁰
- Number of North Carolinians killed in Afghanistan – 9²¹
- Number of North Carolinians wounded in Afghanistan – 41²²
- Number of Veterans in North Carolina – 767,051²³

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING NORTH CAROLINA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 850 estates in North Carolina paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²⁴
- Only 156 estates in North Carolina will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁵
- In contrast, 211,000 workers in North Carolina would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁶

CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 4,260,786.²⁷
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 2,773,690.²⁸

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST NORTH CAROLINIANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest North Carolinians.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of North Carolina residents each received an average of \$2,289 in tax cuts, while middle class North Carolina residents received only \$409.²⁹
- In 2006, the richest one percent of North Carolina residents will receive an average of \$30,307 in tax cuts, while middle class North Carolina residents will only receive \$752.³⁰

- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of North Carolina residents will each receive an average of \$59,305 in tax cuts, while middle class North Carolina residents will only receive \$847.³¹

The richest North Carolinians receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest North Carolinians received 5.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.8 percent of the tax cut.³²
- But, in 2006, the richest North Carolinians will get 23.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.8 percent of the tax cut.³³
- And, in 2010, the richest North Carolinians will get 42.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.1 percent of the tax cut.³⁴

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest North Carolinians.

- In 2010, the richest North Carolinians will receive an average of \$8,278 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest North Carolinians will be getting over 40.9 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁵
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class North Carolinians will receive an average of \$32 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 3.2 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁶

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